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A Causal Model of Psychosocial factors for Empowering Thai Youth to Prevent Domestic Violence

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Abstract

Domestic violence has an impact on behavior, particularly on children who grow up in families where violence is highly likely in the new normal age. The objective of this study was to examine the direct and indirect effects of psychological traits and situations on empowerment behaviors for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. The sample in this research included 450 Thai youths who were randomly selected with multistage quota random sampling method. The variables included exogenous latent variables, psychological traits, situations and psychological states and endogenous latent variables, the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence and psychological states. The result of testing the causal model of all variables was harmonized with empirical data (Chi-square = 219.98, $df = 98$, GFI = .95, CFI = .97, NFI = .95, AGFI = .92, RMSEA = .053, and SRMR = .036). The results indicated that psychological traits ($\beta = .38$, $p = .05$), and situations ($\beta = .47$, $p = .05$) had direct effect on the psychological states. Furthermore, situations ($\beta = .83$, $p = .05$), and psychological states ($\beta = .67$, $p = .05$) had a direct effect on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence. However, the psychological traits had an indirect effect on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence ($\beta = -2.41$, $p = .05$). From the results, it is recommended that agencies should promote knowledge and/or organize training to develop psychological traits for appropriate behavior in preventing domestic violence among Thai youth.

The family institution is the first institution of great importance to society as it is the foundation of all institutions. The family institution is responsible for educating family members to be good citizens. However, at present, the family institution plays a lesser role due to changes in the economy, society, and technology, causing the family institution not to perform its functions perfectly. This negatively impacts the relationship within the family, causing a lack of warmth in the family and many problems, such as conflicts between family members, broken families, and domestic violence (Attatheepo, 2022). This is in accordance with the findings of Scott et al. (2015) which shows that there are numerous problems and obstacles affecting family strength, such as poverty, educational problems, unreadiness, and family involvement. Thailand has focused on building well-living and happy families, based on the 20-year National Strategy (2018-2037) including the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan, which focuses on empowering people of all ages, enhancing the quality of human capital according to the similar age, and promoting quality growth. (Krainatee et al., 2020)

Family at present is encountering changing situations due to domestic factors and surrounding factors in the community, society, and environment, especially in aspects of economic, social and environmental

conditions that have been changed by the trend of globalization and advancement of modern technology. This results in changes in the pattern of lifestyle of family members. This change possibly prejudices the family as well, especially for the structure and relationship among family members. This brings about an issue of domestic violence prevention, which is likely to increase drastically. According to the summary report of statistics on domestic violence prevention of the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, between October 2020 to September 2021, there were 2,177 victims of domestic violence. Most actors were men accounted for (86%), and the interesting point is that 65% of these people have never prevented domestic violence before. Meanwhile, most victims were women, equating to (81%), and the most common problem was physical abuse for (64%), followed by mental abuse accounted for (32%) and sexual abuse for (4%). The stimuli were narcotics, liquors, gambling, divorce, jealousy, and economic stress due to the situation of COVID-19. The violence mostly occurred at home (88%). These data reflect that the situation of COVID-19 is a factor contributing to more domestic violence (Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 2021). This corresponds to the data of One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) of the Ministry of Public Health, indicating that domestic violence prevention is connected with the situation of COVID-19 and has a considerable impact on Thai youths' ways of life in the new normal Age. From 2004-2018, 247,480 abused women and children employed services at the center, equating to 16,000 people/ year (National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, 2020). Therefore, relevant people should protect the youths from domestic violence by understanding family context, especially those related to the history of verbal and physical domestic violence, records of quarreling in the family, stress from parenting, and relationship and communication in the family. The obtained results can be employed to develop a suitable domestic violence prevention program for youths (Wacharasin et al., 2018)

Furthermore, families should emphasize teaching youths to be socially responsible, caring, and attentive. The children should be educated in order that the family will become stronger in the new normal age, particularly with the promotion of self-immunity for youths in the family so that they are prepared to accept any effects and changes in the future, internally or externally. They should be ready to accept the consequences of any action in terms of optimism, consciousness, risk taking, and stress management based on the principle of management in a good and suitable way (Jarernvonggrayab & Wongpinpech, 2020). Domestic violence prevention and avoidance behavior with emphasis on self-protection from domestic violence are related to social conditions, economy, social media, narcotics and lifestyle (Brown & Herbert, 1997; Jailek, 2003; Tengtrairat et al., 2004), and conflict management in the society. As a result, youths in the family will be able to manage their own problems when being at risk or encountering personal issues. This focuses on constructive communication within the family (Thongkhumchuenvivat, 2016), implantation of good manner and morality in the family (Mahatthanadull & Mahatthanadull, 2019), and construction of good relationship and consultation in the family (Cheepsamut et al., 2020).

Due to the issues with violence in Thai society, there are few studies that focus on systematically examining the causes of behaviors in order to understand how to empower families to live without violence among Thai youth. So, the goal of this study is to identify the psychological traits that are internal to the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, as well as the external factors that are related to the people around us and the various contexts in which this behavior is either supported or interfered with. The knowledge gained from this study is an essential tool for academicians and other relevant parties to build useful knowledge and to integrate research and practice so that Thai youth in the Thai community and society are truly free from violence.

Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the direct and indirect relationships between psychological characteristics and mental states and the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth.

Literature Review

In this section, relevant literature and previous studies will be discussed. Additionally, empower theory, moral tree theory, psychological traits, situations, psychological states, biosocial background, and behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth are also discussed.

Domestic violence consists of family members using physical force, aggressive expression, or sexual assault. All these have an impact on victims physically and mentally. Therefore, this research has aimed for possible internal factors relating to behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. The following ideas were collected by the researcher and should explain main causes of domestic violence clearly.

Empower Theory

The first part to be mentioned is empower theory. Empower theory can mean 2 things: power provision or power usage that causes a person to be more powerful than others and force others to follow their orders, perform something relating to their abilities, or join specific studies relating to their abilities with each other. (Webster, 2005)

Besides, there is the capability to encourage a person or groups of people to discover their creative paths before practical procedures and reaching their goals. (World Bank Institute, 2007)

According to this, positively and negatively, empowerment can affect behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal in different ways.

Self-strengthening, which here means youth expressing some behaviors to prepare for any effects and changes in social life and economy and assure instant adaptation and solutions. Here, there are 3 elements: 1) consciousness for social media usage, 2) optimism, and 3) self-dependence and domestic violence prevention and avoidance. The final element contains all actions to preventing domestic violence, choosing to express violence and choosing not to express violence. To strengthen this part, there are 5 more minor elements: 1) social violence prevention, 2) economic violence prevention, 3) social media violence prevention, 4) narcotic violence avoidance, and 5) lifestyle violence avoidance and behaviors for family conflict management. The latest part here means youth expressing some behaviors whenever they are in risky states or encounter personal difficulties. This contains 3 more minor elements: 1) constructive communication within the family, 2) education of family manners and ethics, and 3) building family relationship and advising.

Moral Tree Theory

Next is the theory of moral tree theory (Bhanthumnavin, 1996). This idea reveals the origin of good people and the behaviors of talented people, stating that mental causes have been attached to doers all along and how unstable mental causes are. According to the theory, a form of tree is taken for explanation and there are different parts. The first part is flowers and fruits, which reveal the high quantity of behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. Another part is roots and trunks, which are causes leading to behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth, consisting of future orientation and self-control, need for achievement, and internal locus of control and intelligence.

A type of study related to causes of human behaviors is called Interactionism Model, which summarizes human behaviors in 4 groups: 1) current situations, 2) psychological traits of an actor, which are related to the moral tree theory in which a big tree contains 3 parts — a flower and fruit, tree, and root (Bhanthumnavin, 1996), 3) psychological traits combined with situations, known as Mechanical Interaction, and 4) psychological states or Organismic Interaction. These are the psychological natures of an actor,

which is the result of interaction between the current situation and psychological traits, finally leading to the psychological states of that person (Magnusson & Endler, 1977).

Psychological Traits

Psychological traits employed in this research are based on the moral tree theory demonstrating the causes of behavior of the being a smart and decent person. It is the theory summarizing psychological traits in various situations (Bhanthumnavin, 1996) affecting the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal as follows. Intelligence is the ability to abstractly think, provide a right or true answer, learn and adapt oneself to be suitable to environments, and learn new things. This includes the perception of sense, memory, connection, categorization, decision, and rationing. Human's intelligence is directly vital to learning, such as the ability to adapt and learn the meanings of words (Concept) or abstract items (Bhanthumnavin, 2001).

Future orientation and self-control mean a psychological trait (personality) of an individual related to foreseeing and realizing the importance of any future occurrence (Bhanthumnavin, 2004). De Volder and Lens (1982) divide future orientation and self-control into 3 compositions: foresight, the belief of future occurrence, and realization of the value or importance of the future event. Therefore, to accomplish any action, a person needs to encounter any problems and obstacles and overcome these with perseverance until what he/she wishes becomes achieved. This psychological trait is called the need for achievement. Bhanthumnavin (2001) mentioned that a person who has a high need for achievement is different from a person with a low need for achievement in terms of perception, problem acceptance, decision, problem solving, and action by those who have a high need for achievement. Additionally, Rotter, an American psychologist (Bhanthumnavin, 2007) explained the importance of a psychological trait of a person who believes that they could predict the relation between a cause and an effect, which is referred to as internal locus of control. Erikson (1968, as cited in Bhanthumnavin, 1998) defined the term Ego Identity as a structure of personality generated from self-awareness and self-acceptance that is consistent and continues from childhood to adulthood. Meanwhile, a person comprehends his/her roles and obligations as regulated by his/her society and culture and realizes that his/her knowledge, ability, and need correspond to the need of the society and nearby people. This assures that he/she can finish everything as perfectly as it should be based on self and social standard simultaneously.

Situations

Environment, such as nearby people or past and future events is a factor that is crucial to an individual's thoughts and actions. It may promote or impede a desirable behavior (Bhanthumnavin, 1998). In this study, the situation group consists of 5 variables as follows. An educational institution's environment is a composition of an educational institution that promotes students to learn and develop themselves in all aspects. This includes an attractive, shady, orderly, pollution-free, and safe environment equipped with materials and equipment that enhance development and promote diverse learning and the desire to learn (Kaewfai, 2013). Social media is a media that affects knowledge, attitude, and behavior of humans. The media is used to motivate people to change their behaviors and choose an action. Furthermore, the media suppresses any change. That is to suppress any undesirable action from happening (Kaewthep, 2014). Well-being is a crucial indicator related to family members and the family structure's size that defines the livelihood of each member. A good family must be filled with affection, warmth, and response to needs of every family member equally (Kakwani, 2018). Role modeling from nearby people is conceptual, verbal, and physical expression. For example, a child interacts with parents, guardians, or attendants in a particular activity until he/she perceives the thoughts, beliefs, or behaviors of the parents. The child will develop values, beliefs, and thoughts, driven by the rearing of the family. On the other hand, if he/she imitates friends who have negative expressions, the child will have inappropriate emotional and behavioral expression, which affects him/her and the family (Vasavanon, 2020). Love-reasoned child rearing practice is a basic role of the family because family is the first and smallest but most powerful society of humans. Being suitably raised by the family, an educational institution, community, and society, youth will grow into a good citizen who has desirable psychological traits and behaviors. Therefore, family is the first institute that is the most important to conveying, implanting, and promoting good behaviors for juveniles.

Intimate raising from the family will render a person to embrace any traits of those to whom they are dramatically close also. (Sareerasart et al., 2012)

Psychological States

Psychological states are the psychological nature of a person, originating from an interaction between the psychological traits of a person and the current situations he/she is encountering. It is a psychological trait that is sensitive to changes by situations or a psychological trait under the influence of the situations (Magnusson & Endler, 1977). In this research, related documents are processed, and there are 4 crucial psychological states, including emotional intelligence of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal which is a personal ability to motivate him/herself when facing different situations such as disappointment, or ability to control his/her emotion and deal with problems with thinking ability, hope and empathy. It consists of 5 components: emotional awareness, emotion management, self-motivation, empathy, and good relationship (Goleman, 2005). Encountering stress of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal is an intellectual and behavioral effort to cope with problems or claims from inside and outside. When a person evaluates such a problem or claim and realizes that he/she is being intimidated, it is a condition that is too far to accept (Lazarus, 1991). The self-esteem of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal is a self-assessment in both positive and negative ways. A person with high self-esteem is a person who respects and accepts oneself by thinking that he/she is a valued person, understands his/her own flaws, and expects to improve it. They will express the attitude of self-acceptance and refusal that reflects their belief that they are important and capable. It is to judge the value by expressing the attitude to oneself, perceived by others from speeches and behaviors (Rosenberg, 1965). The attitude of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal is related to expression. In other words, attitude affects personal expression, and in the meantime, the behavioral expression has an effect on personal attitude since attitudes involve what a person thinks, feels and needs (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1977).

Biosocial Background

gender (men, women), residence (with parents, with others), role model (parents, others), advisor (with parents/ others), time spending in family (little/ much time of spending with the family), communication in family (reasoning, emotional-based family), punishment (severe/ slight punishment), time spending on social media (little/ much time), message posting (unconstructive/ constructive posts), and the number of drug abusers in the family (few/ many drug abusers). From the above theories, it is clear that the formation of violent behavior in the family is originated from internal (in-body) and external (surrounding) grounds. These factors influence domestic violence prevention and Thai society. Therefore, to deal with the issues of domestic violence prevention, cooperation from every sector is required to jointly handle and solve the domestic violence prevention problems effectively.

Behaviors of Empowerment for Preventing Domestic Violence in the New Normal

Domestic violence affects the nation on different levels from individual level with effects on the physical condition of victims and doers. The victims are severely mentally traumatized, leading to mental problems and impacts on behavior and personality in the long run. The doers must be punished for their actions, resulting in the impacts on a family that is broken and cannot function as an efficient social unit. Children who grow in this kind of family tend to exploit violence to solve problems affecting the society and the nation. As a result, Thai society becomes unsafe while its population lacks quality and is not engaged in developing the nation effectively (Nintachan et al., 2011). According to the *domestic violence victim protection act* B.E. 2550 (2007), “domestic violence” means any action aimed to cause physical, mental, or health dangers or an intentional act that may physically, mentally, or healthily harm family members or force, manipulate, or dominate family members to take, omit, or accept any action immorally and unrightfully. This excludes a negligent act. (Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development, 2007)

However, when considering a condition of violence issues in the past and the impacts of the outbreak of COVID-19, the humans’ way of living changes especially when living in the new normal age. People need to learn how to adapt themselves in order to survive in a changing environment when any event

drastically affects their lives. However, no matter what current or future situations are or will be, family members or the society remain necessary to take care of their health to always be physically strong and mentally invulnerable in order to deal with what is to come in the future (Chatavethee, 2021). Nevertheless, the new normal lifestyle depends on personal behavior and the family to live happily together. Thus, eliminating violence or promoting family's power in the new normal age is a crucial point that every relevant sector should realize and give emphasis. From the above information, the researcher highlights the study of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal and summarizes that there are three types of behavior: self-strengthening, domestic violence prevention and avoidance, and family conflict management. However, the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence is based on a concept presented by Ninphet (2018), proposing a solution to prevent domestic violence in Thai society. This solution focuses on promoting good relationship in the family and the succession of good and righteous beliefs and values from generation to generation. This will stabilize and sustain the family sector in Thai society. Therefore, this study covers the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in 3 dimensions: 1) self-strengthening which is to get oneself prepared for internal and external changes and consequences, 2) domestic violence prevention and avoidance to prevent the first or recurring violence, and 3) family conflict management regarding how to cope with violence and make it less severe.

According to the review of related studies in the nation and foreign countries and the principle of setting hypotheses in accordance with the theory of interactionism, the researcher determines the variables and summarizes the relation of the variables employed to examine the psycho-social factors pertaining to the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth as demonstrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1

The Conceptual Framework for the Study

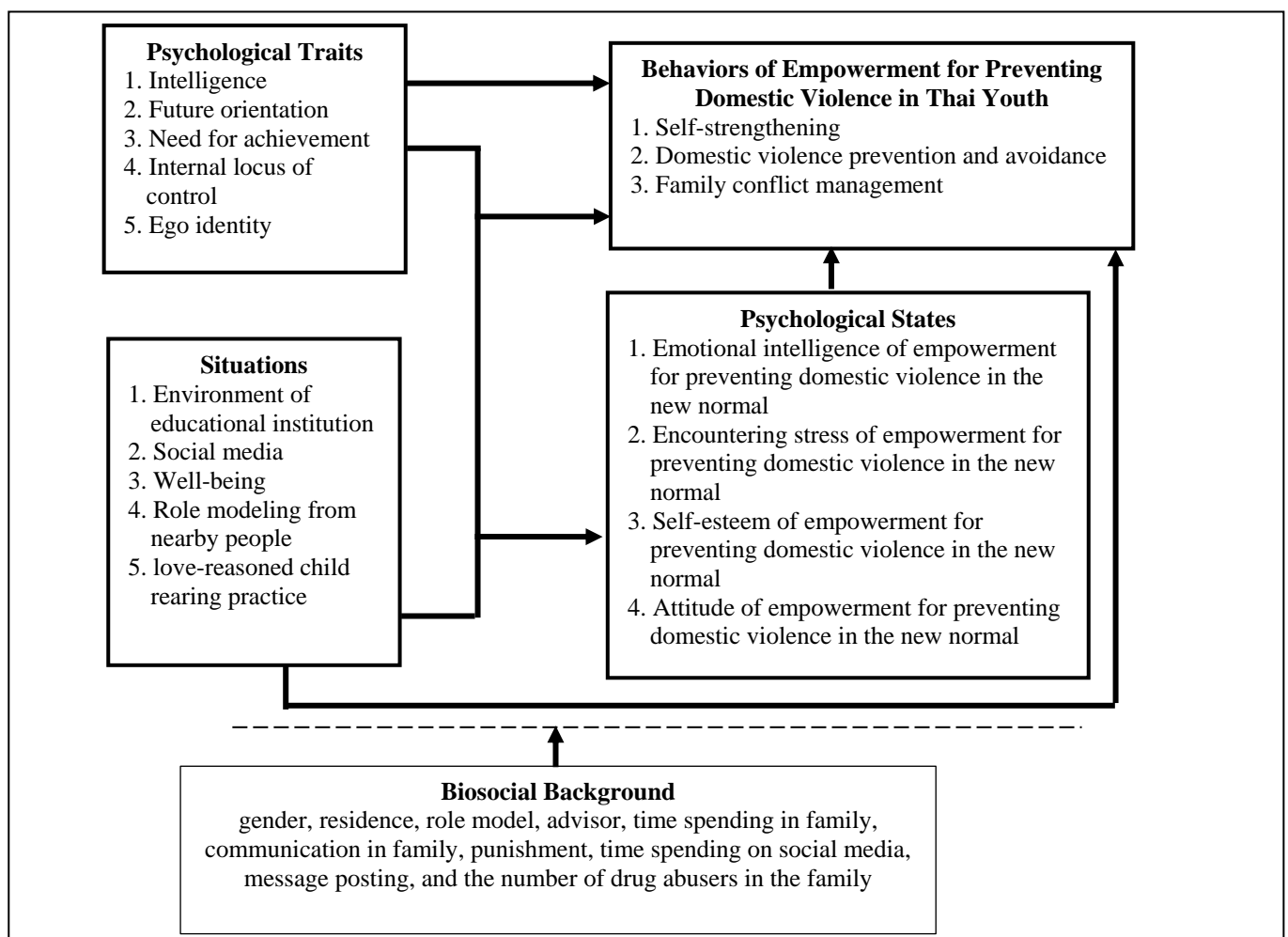


Figure 1 presents the conceptual framework of this study. Based on the literature review, the researchers have developed the research hypotheses as follows.

- H1: Psychological traits has a direct effect on the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence
- H2: Situations have direct effects on the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence.
- H3: Psychological states has direct effects on the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence
- H4: Psychological traits and situations have an indirect effect through psychological states to the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence.

Method

The population in this research included Thai youth with an age range of 15-25 years, staying in eight provinces of Thailand, including Nakhon Si Thammarat, Chiang Mai, Nakhonratchasima, Bangkok, Phuket, Uttaradit, Udonthani and Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya, totaling 1,990,846 people (National Statistical Office Thailand, 2021).

The sample for analyzing antecedents of psychological traits and situations of the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence of Thai youth included Thai youth with an age range of 15-25 years, staying in Thailand. In this research, the sample was selected with Multistage Quota Random Sampling method. The sample size was determined by Kline's (2005) multivariate analysis technique. Kline's (2005) indicated that a suitable sample cluster size could be calculated from parameters at a ratio of 10-20 people/parameter for estimation. The model of causal relation in this research contains 17 parameters to be estimated. The procedures of sampling started by randomly selecting provinces, districts, and sub-districts. Finally, 450 male and female juveniles were obtained by specifying the proportion of population size as per Table 1.

Table 1
The Sample Size for the Study

Province	District	Subdistrict	Size
Nakhon Si Thammarat	Thung Yai	Tha Yang	51
Chiangmai	San Kamphaeng	San Klang	49
Nakhon Ratchasima	Pak Chong	Pak Chong	84
Bangkok	Dusit	Samsen Nai	163
Phuket	Muang	Talad Yai	14
Uttaradit	Nam Pat	Tha It	13
Udon Thani	Ban Dung	Nong Phai	51
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya	Bang Pa-In	Phai Ling	25
Total			450

The researcher employed three types of a questionnaire: 1) six questionnaires created by researchers in the past, including an intellectual test form by Bhanthumnavin (1998), a questionnaire about future orientation and internal locus of control by Duanginta (2006), a questionnaire about achievement motivation by Bhanthumnavin and Waninthanon (1993), a test form for internal locus of control by Bhanthumnavin and Waninthanon (1993), the test form to identity ego by Srijindarat (1990), and a questionnaire related to love-reasoned and reasoning rearing practice by Bhanthumnavin and Waninthanon (1993), 2) a questionnaire created by researchers in the past and restated by the present researcher to create

a new form that is suitable to the social context, including five questionnaires — emotional quotient questionnaire on empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal by the Department of Mental Health (2000), the stress confrontation questionnaire regarding empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal by Takerngkiat (2015), the self-value questionnaire in relation with empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal by Luangthongkum (2015), the questionnaire about school environment by Naphanat (2015), and the well-being questionnaire by Department of Older Persons (DOP) (2019) and 3) a questionnaire created by the researcher, totaling six forms, including self-immunity questionnaire, domestic violence prevention and avoidance behavior questionnaire, family conflict management questionnaire, social media questionnaire, a questionnaire about role modeling from nearby people, and a questionnaire about attitude of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. The researcher created a survey form which includes summated rating method with six scales: absolutely true, true, quite true, quite untrue, untrue, and absolutely untrue.

The researcher followed all possible theories of variables relating to the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. This part consists of variables of psychological traits, the variables of situations, and the variables of psychological states. First of all, the researcher invited experts at social development, community development, and behavioral science to check content validity. Following the content's validation by specialists in social development, community development, and behavioral science, a pilot study involving a sample of 120 people was carried out before being qualified. Various types of statistics were employed, including 1) item discrimination and 2) item total correlation. The values $t \geq 2.00$ and $r \geq .20$ were used to select the proper section amount for each test (Thorndike et al., 1991).

To collect data, the researcher surveyed the areas in 8 provinces in October-December 2021 by distributing a questionnaire containing 17 forms to the sample. Then, the researcher explained all necessary procedures, gave all possible suggestions and asked the sample for permission. Finally, the researcher let the sample complete the test within 1 hour and collected 450 papers in total.

In this research, structural equation modeling, direct effect, intervening variables, indirect effect, hypothesis model, and empirical data were brought into the relation analysis of psycho-social factors correlated with behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. The model is acceptable with Chi-Square/degree of freedom (df) not more than 2.00; Comparative fit index (CFI), Goodness of Fit Index (GFI), Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI), and Normed Fit Index (NFI) less than .90; Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) less than .05; and Standardized Root Mean Squared Residual (SRMR) less than .08 (Hair et al., 2010).

Ethical Considerations

This research was approved by the Ethical Committee of Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, Thailand on June 11, 2021 (IRBCMRU 2021/046.07.04).

Results

The result was analyzed by structural equation modeling (SEM).

1. Testing the causal correlation of all variables results in the analysis of the influence of the causal factors regarding psychological traits and situations in empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth. It was discovered to be consistent with the empirical data (as demonstrated in Table 2)

2. The analysis of latent variables in the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth consists of three components. It was found that the component with the highest weight is self-strengthening ($\beta = .82$; $p=.05$), followed by the behavior of family conflict management ($\beta = .81$; $p=.05$) and the domestic violence prevention and avoidance ($\beta = .63$; $p=.05$), respectively. The latent variables in the psychological states contain 4 components. The component with the highest weight is the emotional intelligence of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal ($\beta = .84$; $p=.05$), followed by the self-esteem of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal ($\beta = .83$; $p=.05$), the attitude of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal ($\beta = .74$; $p=.05$), and encountering stress of the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal ($\beta = .71$; $p=.05$). Additionally, the exogenous latent variables of psychological traits comprise 4 components. The component with the highest weight is internal locus of control ($\beta = .86$; $p=.05$) while other components are weighed for .12 - .79. The exogenous latent variables of the situations contain 5 components. The component with the highest weighed is role modeling from nearby people ($\beta = .80$; $p=.05$) while other components' weight varies from .33 - .77. When studying the Total Effect (TE), Direct Effect (DE), and Indirect Effect (IE) of the endogenous latent variables of the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth, the researcher realized that the variables with the highest direct effect on the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth are exogenous latent variable of situations (TE= 1.15) and endogenous latent variables of psychological states (TE= .67). Meanwhile, the exogenous latent variables of psychological traits have no direct effect on the endogenous latent variables of the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth (TE= 4.94). The endogenous latent variables of the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth are directly affected by 2 latent variables, including the endogenous latent variables of psychological states with positive effect ($\beta = .67$; $p=.05$) and the exogenous latent variables of situations with positive effect ($\beta = .83$; $p=.05$) without a direct effect from the exogenous latent variables of psychological traits. The coefficient of forecast (R^2) of structural equation of the endogenous latent variables regarding the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth equates to .69. The endogenous latent variables for psychological states are directly impacted by 2 exogenous latent variables: 1) the exogenous latent variables of psychological traits and situation with positive effect ($\beta = .38$; $p=.05$ and $.47$; $p=.05$). The coefficient of forecast (R^2) for structural equation of the endogenous latent variables for psychological states is equal to .82 (Figure 2).

Table 2

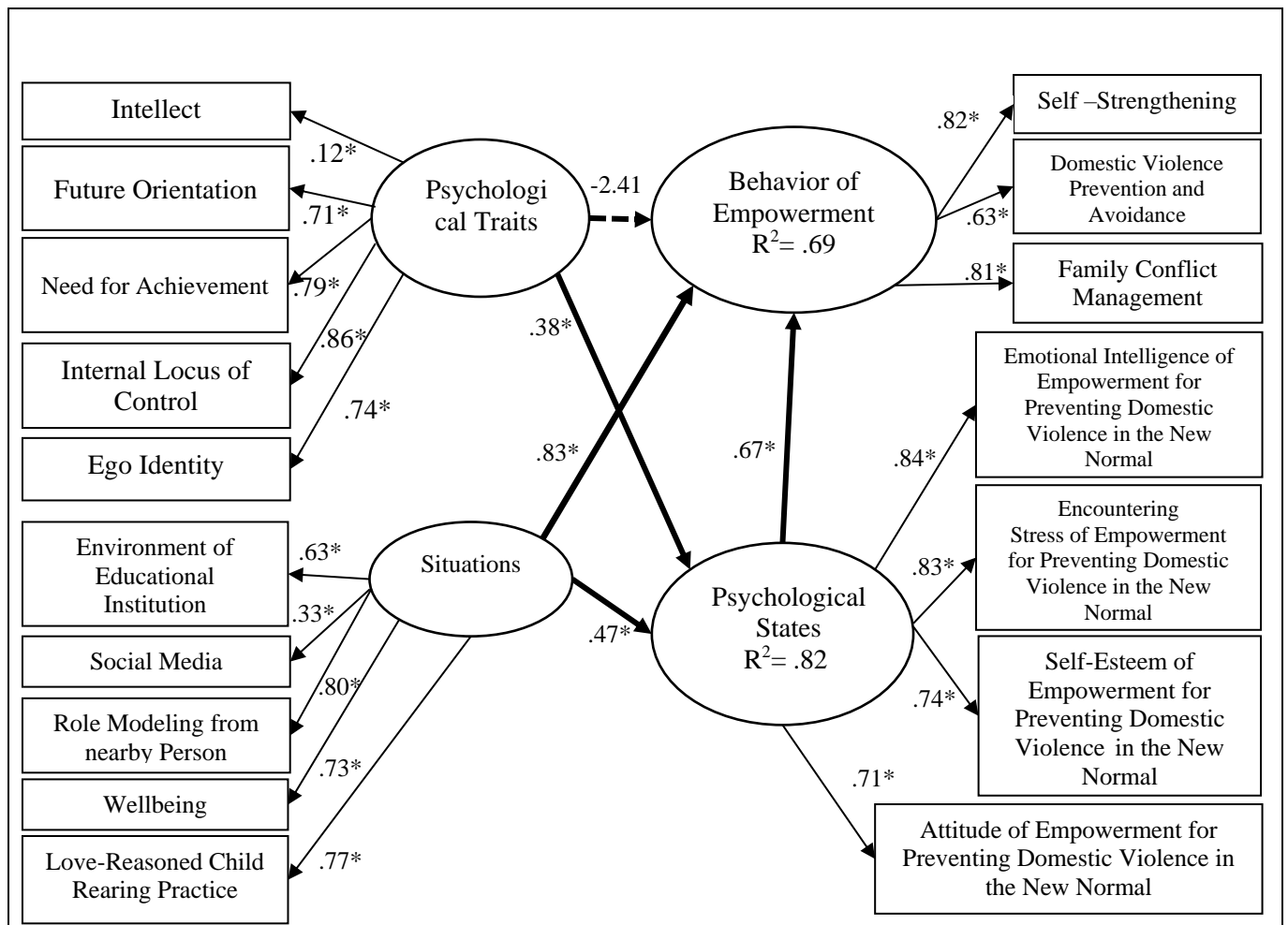
The Path Coefficient of Model Behavior of Empowerment for Preventing Domestic Violence among Thai Youth.

Exogenous Variables	Endogenous Variables					
	Behavioral			psychological states		
	DE	IE	TE	DE	IE	TE
R^2		.69			.82	
Psychological traits	-2.41	7.35	4.94	.38*	-	.38*
Situations	.83*	.32	1.15*	.47*	-	.47*
Psychological States	.67*	-	.67	-	-	-
Fit Index (Chi-square = 219.98, df = 98, GFI = .95, CFI = .97, NFI = .95, AGFI = .92, RMSEA = .05, SRMR = .04)						

Note. * $p = .05$, R^2 = Correlation Coefficient, DE = Direct Effect, IE = Indirect Effect, TE = Total Effect

Figure 2

SEM of Psychological Traits, Situations, Psychological States and Behavior of Empowerment for Preventing Domestic Violence among Thai Youth



Note. —————> = Significant; - - - - -> = Non-Significant

Discussion and Conclusion

After adjusting the model until it harmonizes with the empirical data, the researcher found that the adjusted model corresponds to the theory of interactionism. That is, human's different behaviors are caused by various aspects, including 1) internal psychological traits of a person, 2) external situations of a person, and 3) psychological traits that are subject to the surrounding situations or psychological states. The model demonstrates that the psychological traits and situations have a direct effect on the behaviors and an indirect effect on the behaviors through psychological states. Therefore, this study supports the concept of such interactionism theory.

The antecedents of psychological traits: the findings revealed no effect of the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence of Thai youth, and the result was contrary to the interactionism model indicating that psychological traits had direct influence on personal behaviors (Magnusson & Endler, 1977).

Regarding causal factors of the situations that have an impact on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth, the findings reveal that the environment of an educational institution directly affects the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic

violence in the new normal. This is in line with previous studies (Gentz et al., 2021; Junprasert, 2011; Saotong, 2015; Sripa & Nilphet, 2020; Yaowaboot, 2015) according to the concept of Wuthiwichayan (2016) which states that instructional environment has influence on learning. This renders Thai youth to realize violence-free behaviors. Moreover, social media has a direct effect on the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. This corresponds to the previous work (Kawsiso et al., 2020; Lianyang et al., 2018; Turnbull et al., 2018; Vasavanon, 2019; Weeraphan, 2021) in accordance with the concept of Kaewthep (2014) explaining that media contributes to restraint from any undesirable actions as if it prevents that event from happening. Well-being directly affects the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. This accords with previous research (Kawsiso et al., 2020; Sitsira-at, 2017) and the concept of Promphakping (2012) which points out that desirable family conditions and aimful coexistence play a role in constructing good relationship and self-reliance. Members can adapt to fit in social changes, and Thai youth will display less violent behaviors. Role modeling from nearby people has a direct impact on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, which is corresponding to previous studies (Buranadechachai, 2010; Karomprach, 2014; Pattanayanon, 2018; Radchapattayakom et al., 2012; Saeng-ngam et al., 2017; Ubonsai et al., 2013; Wiraseranee et al., 2019) according to the concept of Vasavanon (2020). The explanation is that seeing nearby people as a role model such as parents, teacher, or friends expressing desirable behaviors will enable a person to assume better behaviors. Love-reasoned child rearing practice has a direct effect on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. This is in agreement with the previous literature (Boonyasana & Punnarong, 2011; Karomprach, 2014; Limsuwanroj & Siripanich, 2021; Onthongkam, 2021; Sitsira-at et al., 2017; Tangchitcharoenkhul et al., 2017; Vasavanon, 2020) based on a concept put forth by Bhanthumnavin (2010) which indicates that practicing love-motivated child rearing is an action that can cease deviant or socially undesirable behaviors. Love-reasoned child rearing practice is to implant children to be conscientious and righteous.

For causal factors related to psychological states affecting the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal among Thai youth, it was found that emotional intelligence directly effects the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. This is in agreement with the previous studies (Atano, 2018; Estevez-Casellas et al., 2021; García-Sancho et al., 2014; Krulic & Velki, 2014; Martínez-Montegudo et al., 2019; Paat et al., 2017) according to the concept of García-Sancho, Salguero & Fernandez-Berrocal (2014) which proposes that emotional intelligence is a set of ability to learn, utilize, understand and manage emotions. This connects with better behavioral adaptation.

Additionally, encountering stress has a direct effect on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, which corresponds to the previous literature (Timshel et al., 2017; Upamairat et al. 2019; Wacharasin, 2018) in accordance with the concept of Cook and Heppner (1997) explaining that encountering stress is a person's attempt in aspects of thinking and action to mitigate and decrease internal and external needs or conflicts. Self-esteem has a direct impact on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal. It is in line with previous work (Agbaria & Natur, 2018; Boonnate, 2018; Coman, 2013) and the concept of Rosenberg (1965) explaining that being a valuable person, and understanding his/her own flaws, and expecting for improvement are to judge value by expressing his/her attitude to oneself, perceived by others through speeches and behavior. The attitude directly affects the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, which agrees with the previous study (Alee et al., 2018; Fazio & Petty, 2007; Khunpino & Sampattavanija, 2021; Kongsuwan et al., 2019; Lomchavakarn, 2021; Praprom, 2018; Surinya, 2015; Tipnee, 2016; Tissamana, 2015) according to the concept of Fishbein and Ajzen (1977) which stated that attitude affects personal expression while behavioral expression affects personal attitude because the attitude relates to what a person thinks, and needs.

In addition, the results showed that psychological traits and situations, through psychological states, indirectly influenced the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence. This finding is

consistent with the interactionism model, which holds that psychological states are the result of an interaction between an individual's psychological traits and their current circumstances. Based on circumstances that have an impact on behaviors, the psychological states may vary (Magnusson & Endler, 1977). The psychological traits, circumstances, and psychological states therefore had a direct impact on the behavior of empowerment for preventing domestic violence, proving the linear route hypothesis of direct and indirect influence among the factors. The relationship between psychological traits and situations and psychological states was demonstrated. As a result of the indirect effects of psychological states caused by psychological traits and situations on the behaviors, the hypotheses H2, H3, and H4 were proven accurate.

Limitations

Traditional psychological traits diagnosis, current situations, psychological traits by situations, and behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence are measured on one source: the Thai youth. The results might over-exaggerate correlations. Following studies are encouraged to use observations and cross reporting. Additionally, this study was undertaken during the height of the Covid 2019 pandemic which could have both positive and negative impacts on the sample group's response.

Implications for Behavioral Science

Recommendation for Application

All organizations, including the Ministry of Education in Thailand and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society in Thailand, as well as schools, universities, communities, sub-district administrative organizations, sub-district municipalities, and families, should integrate their work operations in training people, promoting good attitude, and doing activities related to psychological traits, situations, and psychological states to develop the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the future. There are three components to this: self-strengthening through the application of love-based, reasoned childrearing techniques, emotional intelligence, and the attitude of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, the need for success and social media, as well as preventing and avoiding domestic violence. This includes the identification of nearby people as role models, future orientation and self-control, the environment in an educational institution, the family conflict management for youths by applying the love-reasoned child rearing practice, and attitude of the empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, emotional intelligence, and needs for achievement.

Recommendation for Further Research

1. To develop the behaviors of empowerment for preventing domestic violence in the new normal, a training set of psychological traits, situations, and psychological states should be made available. The evaluation of these training sets should then be done through an experimental study to compare the training set's developed results.

2. Psychological traits, such as moral conviction and situations, such as peer pressure, and biosocial background, which were varied and appropriate to shifting circumstances in the new normal age, were the main factors affecting the behavior of Thai youth in empowering for preventing domestic violence.

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